



St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II

Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

The more we call on God
the more we can feel God's
presence.
Day by day we are drawn
closer
to the loving heart of God.



May 14th and May 15th 2016

Pentecost

St. Thomas Church

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Jesus commissioned his followers to partake in his Messianic ministry. At the time of Jesus, Jews believed the Messiah mission at the end of time was universal. They held the Messiah would go out from Jerusalem to the known world, spread the Good News of salvation, and incite a massive pilgrimage to Palestine. As he gathered all Jews spread throughout the world home, he would call all peoples to Jerusalem so they, too, could worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Jerusalem, the Messiah would judge this massive throng in a Final Judgement, the Day of Yahweh. The Resurrection appearance marked the starting point for this process. From Jerusalem, Jesus sent his followers out as missionaries to the known world. They would testify to the Risen Christ as the Good News of salvation. And the Good News would start the journey home for both Jews and Gentiles. What happened to the Jerusalem pilgrimage? There were two possible answers. First, the Romans leveled Jerusalem in response to the Jewish revolt in 66 A.D. Both the city and the Christian mother church turned to rubble. The Jerusalem church could no longer commission missionaries. Second, Christians spiritualized the pilgrimage. The return home always included the theme of repentance; the sinner who walked away from God's dwelling place turned around and journeyed back. For the Christian, a heavenly Jerusalem became an abode for God. The sinner could find earthly reflection of Jerusalem in the local church community. Hence, conversion and repentance were close to home. So, the followers saw their vocation within God's plan of salvation. The Father sent the Son into the world to lead everyone back to the Father. Jesus would involve his followers in that same work. Since they witnessed Jesus risen, his followers would witness to others. But Jesus gave them more than a witness. He gave them the Holy Spirit. The breathe and command to "Receive the Holy Spirit" must be seen as two parts of the same action. "Them" (the followers) was the object of "Jesus breathed on" and the indirect object of "Jesus said." As Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit out, the text inferred, his follower would breathe it in, just as Jesus commanded. We have already discussed the connection between breathe and Spirit in past studies. The word for "Spirit" in both Greek ("pneuma") and Hebrew ("ruah") was the same for breathe or wind. Ancient people believed that any moment of air was the result of power. Breathe was the result of an inner power, one's life force or spirit. Strong winds that caused death and destruction were the result of God's inner power judging sin. The breathe of inner life and violent winds, Jews believed, came from one source, God. So, God's Spirit was a life-giving, and life-taking power. (See Genesis 1:1 and Acts 2:7). Once the followers breathed in God's Spirit, they shared in the Messiah's power of judgement with the power to declare sins forgiven. John 20:23 referred to the followers' preaching of the Good News. Missionaries like the apostles and Paul, proclaimed a reconciliation of sinners to the Father through Christ; when sinners repented and converted to Christianity, they were cleansed in the waters of baptism. In the context of this verse, the process of reconciliation began with the proclamation of the Good News (declare sins forgiven) and continued through baptism (they are forgiven).

COME, HOLY GHOST

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

And in our hearts take up thy rest.

Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid

//To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

To Thee, the Comforter, we cry,

To Thee, the Gift of God most high,

The fount of life and fire of love,

//The soul's anointing from above.

The sevenfold gifts of grace are Thine

The finger of the hand divine;

True promise of the Father Thou,

//Who dost the tongue with speech endow.

Thy light to every thought impart,

And shed thy love in every heart,

Our body's poor infirmity

//With strength perpetual fortify.

Our mortal foe afar repel,

Grant us, henceforth in peace to dwell;

If Thou be our good gracious guide,

//No evil can our steps betide.

Make Thou to us the Father known;

Teach us the Eternal Son to own,

And Thee, whose Name we ever bless,

//Of both the Spirit to confess.

All glory while the ages run

Be to the *Father* and the *Son*,

Who rose from death, the same to Thee,

//O *Holy Ghost*, eternally. **Amen.**

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follows Sunday's Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

Please contact, Fr. William Faix, OSA if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "wfaix@yahoo.com"

P. William, OSA wants to thank everybody for their attendance and presents in his 80th birthday celebration. God bless you all!

Congratulation for the **Confirmandi**, their Parents and specially thanks to their teacher Bear and Ana.

The 13th PARISH FESTIVAL
Saint Thomas Church. Park Kampa
from 10am till 08pm. 4th June 2016
Program for children; Program for families; Theater Dance, music; Presentation of the activities of the Church; BBQ for all; Raffle; and a lot of surprises...

10 things you should know about Pentecost.

1. Pentecost Sunday marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles.
2. Pentecost Sunday occurs 50 days after Easter.
3. The Bible records the Pentecost in Acts 2:1-13.
4. Pentecost comes 10 days after the Ascension of Jesus Christ.
5. Pentecost is also known as "the birthday of the Church".
6. Pentecost fulfils Jesus' promise to send the "Counselor" and "Spirit of Truth" in John 16-5-15.
7. Pentecost launches the large-scale spreading of the Gospel after Jesus' ascension. Acts 2:41 records that after Peter spoke to the crowd after receiving the Holy Spirit, some 3,000 people were baptized.
8. The Pentecostal movement derives its name from the New Testament event in Acts 2.
9. Jews also celebrate Pentecost, but not for the same reason as Christians. The celebration by Jews of Pentecost is to observe God giving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai 50 days after the Exodus. The Pentecost in Jewish tradition takes place 50 days after Passover.
10. Pentecost is usually represented with the colour red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Ongoing Activities

***Bible Study** sessions are held each Tuesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 in the Church office. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

* **Adult Religious education** every Wednesday at 06:30 pm.

*If you would like to receive **a copy of the bulletin by email**, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz

***Marriage Preparation:** The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 28th May from 9:15am - 3pm at St. Thomas Parish for those who wish to participate. This will be the last marriage preparation before the summer holidays. The following preparation will then be held in September.

* **St. John Nepomuk** festival will be celebrated on the 16th of May. Vesper in our Church at 08:00 pm

*May 22nd is **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY**. Again we ask that you pray for these young parishioners as they approach the Eucharist for the first time.

* Please note: on Sunday, May 29th, the Czech, the English, the Spanish speaking communities and other expatriate communities together will celebrate the feast of **Corpus Christi** which honours the Eucharistic presence of Christ. Mass for all our communities will be at 09:30 am. there will be no Mass at 11:00 am. Immediately after Mass the procession with the Blessed Sacrament through Malastrana

Year of Mercy: "Merciful like the Father"

Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy:

1. to feed the hungry,
2. give drink to the thirsty,
3. clothe the naked,
4. welcome the stranger,
5. heal the sick,
6. visit the imprisoned,
7. bury the dead.

And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy:

1. to counsel the doubtful,
2. instruct the ignorant,
3. admonish sinners,
4. comfort the afflicted,
5. forgive offences,
6. bear patiently those who do us ill
7. pray for the living and the dead."